

THE INDEPENDENT

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NO 569

VOL. XII

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1919

INTER COUNTY HIGHWAY PROJECT IN BAD SHAPE

State Highway Commission Seems To Be Pitting Counties Against The District Project And State and Federal Aid is Doubtful

It is beginning to look as if Pasquotank and other north-eastern North Carolina counties are going to have hard sledding in getting state and federal aid for their permanent road projects.

Members of state good roads legislation in the last General Assembly reported that all such state aid legislation was designed to benefit a few of the larger cities in the state and that all money would be placed in one or two central highway projects which would benefit the cities, but would not benefit the surrounding counties and the state at large. Many men in the General Assembly fought state road legislation in the last session, refusing to consent to an increase in taxation which they believed would benefit only a part of the state. The changes of the legislation were repeatedly denied and in the end the legislature finally enacted the bill, but it was assured that every county would share and share alike.

But the Pasquotank Highway Commission and the Northeastern North Carolina District Highway Commission are beginning to suspect what the opposition of the state highway commission and federal aid all along suspected. These two commissions are unable to get any satisfaction whatever from the State Highway Commission and some are ready to believe that the State Highway Commission will not put a cent of state and federal road funds in this corner of the state if there is any way to get out of it.

W. J. Woodley, A. B. Houtz and I. J. Morris of the Pasquotank Highway Commission have just returned from a second trip to Raleigh in the interest of Pasquotank road projects. They report that they are as far from state and federal aid now as when they started and yet Pasquotank was one of the first counties in line for state and federal aid under the new state highway act. Pasquotank has complied with all the requirements of the law and is entitled to every consideration, but all she gets is a stall.

DISTRICT HIGHWAY IN DOUBT

The situation today is such that the fate of the proposed district highway from Edenton to the Virginia line, via Elizabeth City and Moyock, is in doubt. The district highway is now by no means a certainty. The State Highway Commission now holds that it can not deal with the District Highway Commission at all. The only way it will consent to help the project is upon direct application from each of the counties in the district. This means that if Pasquotank and the other four counties in the road district ask for state and federal aid for the district highway, they will shut themselves out from state and federal aid for purely county projects.

Pasquotank now finds itself in this predicament. Pasquotank is entitled to and expects state and federal aid for its main highway from Weeksville to upper Pasquotank. It is entitled to this aid under every definition of federal authorities. But if Pasquotank puts in a claim for funds for the district highway, the chances seem to be that Pasquotank will not get a dollar for its purely local projects. Chairman of the State Highway Commission has emphatically said there is not enough money to go around this year, one even suspect that he has shrewdly pitted the counties against the district highway project in the expectation of developing a first class road that will benefit all projects in this section.

The Pasquotank Highway Commission is reluctant to fall into the hands of a district highway project, especially in view of the fact that Pasquotank assumes the biggest share of the expense of building the proposed district highway.

The outlook for the district highway is therefore very dark right at this time. The proposed highway is solely dependent upon state and federal aid if it materializes. The Federal act creating the district highway commission contemplated the building of a million dollar road and provided bond issue of only five hundred thousand dollars in anticipation of state and federal aid. But there was a flaw in the act and when the bonds were issued for sale no purchaser would take more than \$250,000 of them. The bidder in of this amount never concluded the purchase and the District Highway Commission is at a loss. The failure now of the State Highway Commission to come across with the expected state and federal aid will mean the blowing up of the beautiful million dollar inter-county highway project.

In meantime the Pasquotank Highway Commission determines not to let its efforts to get state and federal aid for Pasquotank county roads. The commission has applied for \$150,000 this money. It will either get it or the State Highway Commission will show down. Failure to get this money or something like it will indicate Pasquotank county that the state administration is not acting in good faith in the distribution of these funds

COUNTY TAXES ALMOST DOUBLE

Education And Good Roads Will Cost A Pretty Penny

Pasquotank county's tax rate for the coming year will be \$1.75 2-3 per \$100 property valuation, which is a substantial increase over last year's tax levy of \$1.00 per \$100. This increase is largely accounted for by an increase of 42c over last year in the school tax, which will give a total of 67c per \$100 for the county schools, as compared with 25c for the past year.

Under the new State School tax law which provides a uniform minimum school term of 6 months, Pasquotank as well as all the other counties of the State will pay to the State treasurer a tax of 32c per \$100 property valuation, out of which all county schools will be run 3 months, the other three months to be provided for in the regular way.

The new tax rate was fixed Tuesday at a special session of the Board of County Commissioners, and is as follows: State and pension, 15-2-3 (a reduction of 12c from last year); School tax, .32; General Fund, .19; set aside to pay the floating indebtedness of the county, .10; Road fund, .18; special tax for \$50,000 bond issue for paving county roads, .36; special tax for District Highway, Edenton to Virginia line, .10; special school tax for maintenance of county schools, .35; Total tax for all purposes, \$1.75 2-3.

It is interesting to note that the cost of the county's paved roads really amounts to less than half of the increase in taxes provided for in the new tax levy.

The road poll tax in lieu of work on roads outside of Elizabeth City will be \$2.00 for all citizens under 45 years of age. Additional school taxes will be levied in certain special districts formed for school enlargement, as follows: Newland, .25; Nixonton, .15 and the county, .10; Weeksville, .30. These special school taxes will be materially reduced when the new school buildings have been paid for.

At the Tuesday meeting of the Board, the revision of the jury list was completed, in compliance with the law.

WANTS LOCAL CAPITAL FOR NEW BOAT LINE

Would Put New Steamer On Run Between Here And Norfolk

Giles S. Doty, fiscal agent of the Inland Navigation Co., of Norfolk, is in Elizabeth City to organize a stock company to put on a steamboat line between this city and Norfolk. Mr. Doty's local proposition has nothing to do with the plans of the Virginia corporation which were referred to in this newspaper last week.

Mr. Doty is asking local capital to subscribe \$50,000 and his plan is to purchase the steamer Elizabeth City, a 200 ton shallow water freighter now being built by the Elizabeth City Ship Yard Co. for the Virginia-Carolina Navigation Co. The Virginia-Carolina started the construction of this boat especially for its service between Elizabeth City and Norfolk, and then abandoned its service before the boat was completed. The Elizabeth City represents an unusually good job in ship building and is far and away ahead of anything ever suggested for the service indicated. A number of far sighted local business men have already taken stock in the proposed company and C. W. Stevens, who had plans of his own for a steamboat line, is throwing his support to Mr. Doty's proposition.

BUTCHERS HIRE LAWYERS TO FIGHT MARKTHOUSE

At the recent special meeting of the Board of Aldermen, a report on the repairs necessary to put the City Market in first-class running condition was made by J. P. Kramer, who likewise offered to make the suggested repairs on a cost plus ten per cent basis, estimating the entire cost, including his commission, at \$1175. Mr. Kramer's proposition was accepted by the Board, and it is understood that the Market House will be repaired as promptly as possible.

Meanwhile, this newspaper is informed that the butchers doing business outside the Market House have engaged lawyers, and plan to make a determined fight against any attempt to force them into the Market.



JOHN Z. WHITE

HIGH PRAISE FOR MR. JNO. Z. WHITE

One of America's Leading Orators Speaks Here Sunday

John Z. White, lecturer for the Henry George Lecture Association, will deliver his famous lecture "Civic Righteousness" at the Alkrama Theatre in this city Sunday afternoon, June 15, at 3 o'clock sharp. There will be no charge for admission and no collection plate passed.

Mr. White delivers several lectures in Virginia this week under the auspices of Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs who are paying his expenses. His only opportunity to come into North Carolina at this time is Sunday and upon invitation of THE INDEPENDENT Mr. White will visit Elizabeth City. His lecture, "Civic Righteousness" has been delivered from a number of pulpits in many of the largest cities in the country.

John Z. White comes to this city recommended by men like William Jennings Bryan, Chas. H. Ingersoll, Louis D. Post and others. Mr. Post, writing of him in The Public, says:—

Mr. White is a persuasive as well as a convincing speaker. He can swing oratorical clubs, when occasion demands; and logical argument mathematically adjusted is his delight; but he can lead as well as drive, and when he is in a class by himself, he is as Cockran in a chair. Yet he is distinctly one of the leading orators of the United States today. In the oratory of the art of leading, driving and convincing, the orator's art, he more than makes up for it in accuracy and strength. In the art of leading, driving and convincing, his hearers from what they know and believe in to what they do not know or do not believe in, he has few equals. Taking him altogether, his ideals and his powers, Mr. White is the kind of man one could wish to see on the floor of Congress when millions of plutocrats are pulling at the pillars that support the democracy of our republic.

This newspaper believes that not even Chautauqua has a more interesting lecturer or a more interesting subject to offer Elizabeth City people at this time. His lecture is not for children, but for thoughtful men and women who appreciate an address to their intelligence. Out of town people who would like to motor in to hear Mr. White will have seats reserved for them without charge by telephoning THE INDEPENDENT not later than Saturday 5:30 P. M.

CHAUTAUQUA

PROGRAM

Friday, June 13—3 p. m. Series Lecture—Chautauqua Superintendent. Concert—Pietro Mordella Company. 7:45 p. m. Concert—Pietro Mordella Company. Lecture—Chancellor Bradford—"Suncrowned Manhood."

Saturday, June 14, 3:00 p. m. Concert—Overseas Quartette. Series Lecture—Chautauqua Superintendent. 7:45 p. m. Concert—Overseas Quartette. Lecture—Ross Crane—"Dollars and Sense for Your Town."

Monday, June 16, 3:00 p. m. Lecture—Carlton Chamberlayne. "Tomorrow." 7:45 p. m. Drama—"Polly of the Circus." Full cast, five sets of scenery.

Tuesday, June 17, 3:00 p. m. Concert—1919 Revue Company. Series Lecture—Chautauqua Superintendent. 7:45 p. m. Concert—1919 Revue Company. Lecture—Dr. Thomas E. Green—"The Salt of the Earth."

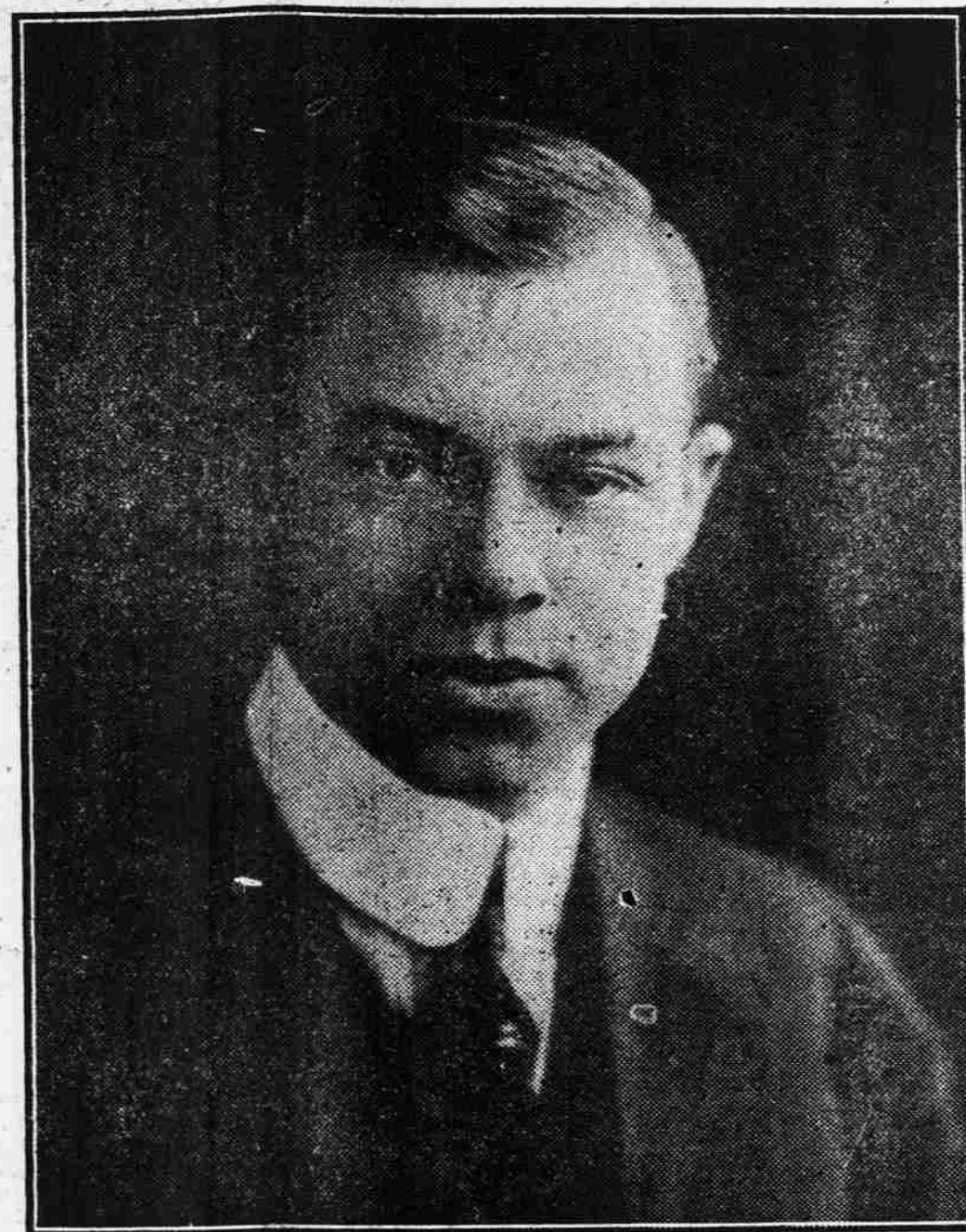
Wednesday, June 18, 3:00 p. m. Concert—Brooks Orchestral Club. Lecture—Miss Welthy Honsinger. 7:45 p. m. Opera—"Robin Hood"—Chautauqua's greatest musical success.—Full cast, chorus and orchestra (35 people).

Thursday, June 19, 3:00 p. m. Pageant—"The Wop"—Presented by the Junior Chautauqua. Concert—Hawaiian Concert Company. 7:45 p. m. Concert—Hawaiian Concert Company. Lecture—European Statesman.

Children's admission to any session 25 cents.

Note:—Sacred concert and address on Sunday at hour to be announced.

Elizabeth City's Chief Executive



WILLIAM GASSAWAY GAITHER

MR. GAITHER, Elizabeth City's new chief executive is strong for a clean town and public improvements. In an address delivered at the monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night he may have prepared the Elizabeth City public to expect something big in the way of public improvements when he produced figures to show that Elizabeth City can easily stand an additional bond issue of a quarter of a million dollars.

NOT GUILTY IN EYES OF RECORDER SPENCE

City Sanitary Inspector Raises Cain On Streets, But What Of It?

W. J. Simmons, City Sanitary Inspector under the old Mack Sawyer regime and who is still in office pending the appointment of his successor was found not guilty on an indictment for assault in the Recorder's Court of this county last Saturday. Capt. Simmons twice abused W. O. Saunders, editor and publisher of this newspaper, on the streets of the city last Friday, used foul language and threatened violence to the city last Friday. Capt. Simmons was arrested by Chief of Police Leon Holmes who took Simmons by the arms and led him away.

Simmons was tried Saturday morning by Judge Geo. J. Spence, the same Judge who couldn't find the law to make a conviction in a case where another Mack Sawyer machine office holder had broken out the window lights in the Y. M. C. A. building by throwing billiard balls thru them in the dead of night. Simmons was acquitted.

Capt. Simmons' violence last Friday was caused, so he says, by an article published in this newspaper last week in which this newspaper implied that Simmons had tried to square himself with both political factions in Elizabeth City; Simmons voting for the Mack Sawyer alderman in his ward while he sent his son Josiah to vote for the new administration candidates.

G. Frank Derrickson, alderman from the First Ward, testified at the trial Saturday that Capt. Simmons had told him: "I couldn't vote for you because I had promised the other side before I knew you were a candidate; but I got my son Josiah to vote for you."

Mr. Derrickson was forced into the case by the defendant's counsel after an attempt had been made to create the impression in the court that THE INDEPENDENT had not told the truth about Simmons' duplicity.

E. F. Ayldett, M. B. Simpson and P. G. Sawyer represented Simmons.

SHEEP COUNTIES FAVOR NEW STATE DOG LAW

In Other Counties The Commissioners Are Slow To Take Action

Reports from County Agents of the Extension Service to R. S. Curtis, Animal Husbandman of the North Carolina Experiment Station, indicate that a good number of the counties in which agents are employed are putting the recently enacted dog law in full force.

As it is largely left to the County Commissioners of the different counties to enforce this law, it was thought that possibly the requirements for tagging each dog and keeping him confined at night, unless accompanied by the owner, would not be fully complied with. However, in those counties where sheep raising is progressing, the commissioners have seen the value of a full enforcement, and are carrying out the law to the letter. Some agents report that as a result of this, a number of the counties will be in the market for several carloads of pure bred sheep this fall, and that the sheep industry of the State will soon be on a better basis than ever before.

CITY MANAGER IS RAHWAY, N.J. MAN

Aldermen Employ Civil Engineer To Run The Town For Them

Elizabeth City will try the City Manager plan of municipal government with a trained out of town man who has no local strings tied to him. The Board of Aldermen in special session Monday afternoon employed Fred W. Simmons, City Engineer of Rahway, N. J., as City Manager at a salary of \$2,400.00 per annum to start. Mr. Simmons will assume the duties of the office on or before July 1. His contract with the city gives the Aldermen the right to dispense with his service on 30 days notice if he isn't satisfactory.

Mr. Simmons told the Board that he was born in Natick, Mass. 36 years ago, that he had a grammar and high school education, supplemented by a special course in the Civil Engineering department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; that he had completed the Efficiency Course at Emerson Institute in New York City. He stated further that he was a member of the American Waterworks Association, and an associate member of the City Manager's Association, also that his application for membership in the American Society of Civil Engineering was before that body.

Regarding his experience in municipal and other affairs, Mr. Simmons stated that during the years of 1905-1911 he was employed in the maintenance and construction departments of the New York Central railroad; that while in the employ of the railroad he designed several extensive terminal yards and grade crossing elimination projects. In 1911 he gave up this work to resume private practice as a civil engineer at Ridgewood, N. J. He became a municipal engineer for that city and several surrounding towns, and in March 1915 was chosen from a large number of applicants for the post of City Engineer of Rahway, N. J. In this position he claims to have had considerable experience in many departments of municipal work.

Fred W. Simmons impresses one as being a man possessed of considerable energy and executive ability. This, coupled with his training and extensive experience in city affairs, augurs well for the future of the City Manager plan in Elizabeth City.

ELIZABETH CITY NOW HAS PLAGUE OF BUGS

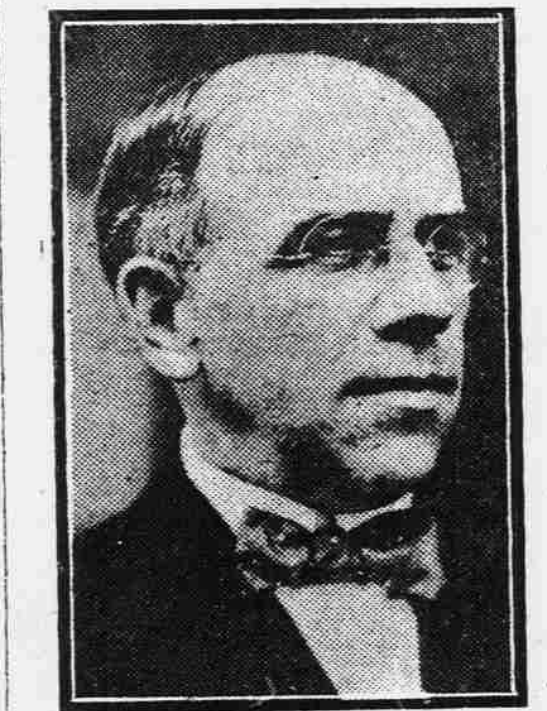
Elizabeth City is suffering from an invasion of a swarm of strange insects the exact entomological name of which has not been ascertained. Millions of these winged insects swarm at night and they have a peculiar tendency for drug stores. The windows of two of Elizabeth City's leading pharmacies have been covered with thousands of the strange bugs and they are positively immune to insect powders and ordinary poisonous fumes.

County Farm Demonstrator G. W. Falls has had his attention called to the plague. He can't think of the name of the bugs, but he has seen them before and says they are harmless.

WILL ELIZABETH CITY OWN LIGHTS AND WATER?

Municipal Ownership of City's Public Utilities May Be The Ultimate Goal of New Political Administration, If One May Read Between Lines

CASE WILL NOT GET FAT



LORENZO D. CASE

THE accompanying photo of Secretary Case of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce was snapped by Saunders himself nearly six months ago. Mr. Case objected to the use of it because he said he looked thin in the face and he assured the editor of this newspaper that if given a little time he would fatten up and make a better subject for the camera. For six months this newspaper has waited for Case to fatten up and he is as thin now as he was six months ago. This newspaper is convinced that Case will never fatten up until he quits work can't quit as long as there's a lick of work to do. So here goes that bloomin' picture. It isn't a bad picture at that.

THE SUNDAY QUESTION BEFORE NEW ALDERMEN

Druggists Petition For More Liberal Treatment—Board Split on Question

The new Board of Aldermen will soon have to take a stand on the Sunday question. The druggists of the city were before the Board this week with a petition asking that they be allowed to sell soft drinks, cigars, candy, etc., on the Sabbath. The druggists make on the Sabbath they are compelled to work Sundays anyway, to supply the pharmaceutical needs of the community and that maintaining Sunday hours simply for the sale of a few drugs imposes a hardship upon them.

The druggists are not alone in demanding a less rigid Sunday law. Sunday is the recreation day of the masses; most folk want some place to go on Sunday. Elizabeth City hasn't a recreation park or community center of any kind available to all the people. Open drug stores on Sunday would give the run-down working people and the restless young folk a little harmless diversion.

On the other hand there is a large and respectable element in the community who think that it would be a heinous sin for a poor man to take his wife and children to a soda fountain on a hot Sunday afternoon and sit under an electric fan and buy ice cream cones. The very persons who entertain this Mosaic view probably sweat a Negro servant every Sunday morning turning an ice cream freezer for their own family. In the selfish seclusion of their homes they commit every sin they would legislate against outside their homes.

Usually people who are strictly Puritan are much given to headaches, belly-aches and kidney colic. It has been suggested that they would change their views on the Sunday question if the drug stores would close up tight on Sundays and refuse to serve them prescription doses and proprietary nostrums thru the back door. It is hinted that the druggists propose to do just that thing; to refuse to be bothered at all with Sunday business if they are not permitted some latitude.

ALL DONE IN A DAY

Out of town people who come to Elizabeth City for eye glasses can have their eyes tested, glasses made and fitted the same day by Hathaway service. No need to wait a week for some one to order glasses for you. I have my own grinding plant and not only prescribe the glasses you need but make and fit them on the premises. It saves a lot of time as well as lot of middlemen's expenses.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
Optometrist
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

Will Elizabeth City's new political administration incline to municipal ownership of public utilities? There's a question that ought to give Elizabeth City folk something to think about and talk about.

The first suggestion that the new administration may incline to public ownership of the city's lights, water and sewerage appeared between the lines of a speech delivered by Mayor Gaither before the membership of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night.

Mayor Gaither spoke at length upon the city's needs and emphasized the matter of lights and water. He said Elizabeth City is one of the poorest lighted towns he knows anything about. He didn't say much about the water, because enough has been said. And after voicing our need for better lights and better water Mr. Gaither pulled a string of figures to show how much money the city can command in solving its problems. He didn't say a word about municipal electric lights, water and sewerage, but he gave figures to show that the city can command enough money to embark upon such enterprises if it cares to do so.

The total taxable property in Elizabeth City now goes on the tax books at something more than \$4,000,000. The city's bonded indebtedness at this time is about \$160,000. The city is legally entitled to bond to the amount of 10 per cent. of its total taxable property. This means that Elizabeth City has a margin of about \$250,000 to work upon at its decision to go into the light, water and sewerage business. These were the figures submitted by Mayor Gaither.

But, as a matter of fact, Elizabeth City will be in position to bond for more than a half million dollars if such an issue is needed. Elizabeth City property is now on the tax books at less than half its true value. If the new county supervisor of taxation performs his duties faithfully and puts the city's property on the tax books at its true valuation, Elizabeth City's total property valuation will be nearer \$10,000,000 than \$4,000,000. If the new valuation does reach the ten million mark, Elizabeth City can bond for a cool million, less the \$160,000 bond issue now outstanding.

IRISH POTATOES ARE MOVING LIVELY NOW

Approximately 150 Car Loads Move From Elizabeth City In A Few Days

Approximately 150 carloads of Irish potatoes have been shipped through Elizabeth City to northern and western markets from this section of North Carolina within the past 10 days, and these have come principally from Currituck, the Old Trap section of Camden, and the Weeksville section of Pasquotank. Few shipments have gone out from the country immediately around Elizabeth City, the crop here being much later than usual on account of the unfavorable season.

The quality of the potatoes shipped thus far has been good on the whole, and some shipments will receive a No. 1 grade under the Federal Food and Drug Act, according to the government inspector who has looked them over. The first shipments were not as carefully graded as later ones, due in part to some misunderstanding or failure to comply with the law on the part of the growers. This law will permit a No. 1 grading where there are not more than 5 per cent of seconds or culls. It is practically certain that as the season progresses, the grading will be more carefully done, especially when the farmers thoroughly realize that careful grading means better prices.

Price quotations continue good. Wednesday's sales for No. 1 stock being made at 7.00 to \$9.00. Larger shipments are expected to go out next week.

WALDORF BAND LEADER FOR THE LOCAL ORDER OF MOOSE

M. McRae Faison, state organizer of the Loyal Order of Moose, who believes Elizabeth City will enroll 1,000 members for that order, is making a strong drive right now for musicians. The Moose always have a band and Moose Faison wants to see the Elizabeth City Moose Band in sight before he starts his big drive for members. Leslie Waldorf, Elizabeth City's first and foremost musical nut, has agreed to take the leadership of the Moose Band. Waldorf will deliver the goods on his part and it's now up to Faison.

The public is cordially invited to attend a Lawn Party at Mr. Lonnie Sherlock's Friday night, June 13th. The proceeds will go for the benefit of paying for the piano at Hall's Creek Church.